



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Administration for Children and Families**

**Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program**

**AGENCY:** Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

**ACTION:** Notice of a re-established matching program.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (HHS/ACF/OPRE), is providing notice of a re-established matching program between the Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center (DoD/DMDC) and State Public Assistance Agencies (SPAAs), "Verification of Continued Eligibility for Benefits Through the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) Program." HHS/ACF/OPRE facilitates the matching program.

**DATES:** The deadline for comments on this notice is [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

The re-established matching program will commence not sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice, provided no comments are received that warrant a change to this notice. The matching program will be conducted for an initial term of 18 months (from approximately September 30,

2021, through March 30, 2023) and within 3 months of expiration may be renewed for 1 additional year if the parties make no change to the matching program and certify that the program has been conducted in compliance with the matching agreement.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties may submit written comments on this notice, by mail or email, to the Director, Division of Data and Improvement, HHS/ACF Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201, [paris@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:paris@acf.hhs.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** General questions about the matching program may be submitted to Alicia Gumbs, HHS/ACF Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201 (202) 690-8490, [paris@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:paris@acf.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a, subsection(e)(12)), provides certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving Federal benefits. The law governs the use of computer matching by Federal agencies when records in a system of records (meaning, Federal agency records about individuals retrieved by name or other personal identifier) are matched with records of other Federal or non-Federal agencies. The Privacy Act requires agencies involved in a matching program to:

1. Enter into a written agreement, which must be prepared in accordance with the Privacy Act, approved by the Data Integrity Board of each source and recipient Federal agency, provided to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and made available to the public, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o), (u) (3) (A), and (u) (4).
2. Notify the individuals whose information will be used in the matching program that the information they provide is subject to verification through matching, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o) (1) (D).
3. Verify match findings before suspending, terminating, reducing, or making a final denial of an individual's benefits or payments or taking other adverse action against the individual, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(p).
4. Report the matching program to Congress and the OMB, in advance and annually, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o) (2) (A) (i), (r), and (u) (3) (D).
5. Publish advance notice of the matching program in the *Federal Register* as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(e) (12).

This matching program complies with these requirements.

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**Naomi Goldstein**

Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Planning, Research, and Evaluation, ACF.

**Participating Agencies:**

Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center (DoD/DMDC) is the source agency, and each State Public Assistance Agency (SPAA) is a non-Federal agency. The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (HHS/ACF/OPRE) facilitates the matching program and is not a source or recipient of data used in the matching program.

**Authority for Conducting the Matching Program:**

Sections 402, 1137, and 1903(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 602, 1320b-7, and 1396b(r)).

**Purpose (s) :**

This matching program identifies individuals receiving both Federal compensation (pay or pension benefits) and public assistance benefits under Federal benefit programs administered by the states and verifies public assistance clients' declarations of income circumstances.

Each participating State Public Assistance Agency (SPAA) will provide the Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) with finder files containing identifying and other data about public assistance applicants or recipients (clients), which DMDC will match against DoD military and civilian pay files, military retired pay files, and survivor pay files (Office of Personnel Management (OPM) civilian retired and survivor

pay files will not be used). DMDC will return matched data to the SPAA, which the SPAA will use to verify clients' continued eligibility to receive public assistance benefits under HHS' Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs and the Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and, if ineligible, to take such action as may be authorized by law and regulation to ensure fair and equitable treatment in the delivery of benefits attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government. HHS will support each SPAA's efforts to participate in the matching program by assisting with finalizing the terms of the agreement and coordinating signatures on the agreement.

**Categories of Individuals:**

The categories of individuals whose information is involved in the matching program are:

- Individuals who apply for or receive public assistance benefits under Federal programs administered by the states (i.e., under Medicaid, TANF, and SNAP); and
- Individuals who receive compensation from the DoD (i.e., military, civilian, survivor, or retirement pay or pension benefits).

**Categories of Records:**

The categories of records involved in the matching program are public assistance client identifying information and Federal pay and pension data.

A SPAA will provide the following data elements to DMDC about each public assistance client:

- Client social security number (SSN), client last name, first name, client date of birth, address, gender, marital status, information regarding the specific public assistance benefit being received, file date, state name, state optional data, client location code, and case number.

DMDC will provide the SPAA with match results containing the following data elements about any public assistance client who is receiving compensation from DoD:

- SSN; state data; record type; file date; date of birth; last name; first name; middle name; suffix name; sex; gross pay; unit identification (ID) code (UIC); agency; pay plan; pay grade; pay step; basic salary; state residence; Federal taxable wages; Federal tax withheld; state taxable wages; state tax withheld; employee status code; payroll office number; personnel office ID; pay basic code; pay period end date (YYYYMMDD); disbursing date (YYYYMMDD); pay status; category code; total base pay all drills; marital status code; dependents quantity; off duty military code; welfare to work hire code; city; state; zip; address lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; mailing address effective; claim number; retired pay

entitlement effective; comments 1, 2, 3 and 4; and member SSN.

**System(s) of Records:**

The DoD data used in this matching program will be disclosed from the following system of records, as authorized by routine use 16 published March 11, 2019: DMDC 01, titled "Defense Manpower Data Center Data Base," last published in full at 84 FR 6383 (Feb. 27, 2019), and modified at 84 FR 8698 (Mar. 11, 2019) and 84 FR 15605 (Apr. 16, 2019).

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